

**REMARKS**

In response to the Office Action dated March 18, 2003, claims 7, 9, 16, 18 and 19 are amended, and claims 8 and 17 are canceled. Claims 7, 9-11, 16, 18 and 19 are now active in this application. No new matter has been added.

**REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND § 103**

Claims 7-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lo et al. (USPN 5,850,515).

Claims 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lot et al. (USPN 5,850,515) in view of Lo et al. (USPN 5,940,392).

The rejections of claims 8-11, 18 and 19 are respectfully traversed.

Lo et al. (USPN 5,850,515) is different from the present invention and deals with the situation where, when a packet is place onto the LAN and is received by a port of the repeater, the repeater will reject the packet and not repeat it if the source address of the packet does not match what the repeater expect from the port. Alternatively the repeater can repeat garbage on ALL ports when such packet is received.

The present invention, on the other hand looks, at the destination address of the packet. If the destination address does not correspond to the port to be repeated the packet is corrupted so that the receiver cannot eavesdrop. Unlike Lo et al. (USPN 5,850,515), in the present invention, the repeater can corrupt all ports, some ports (usually all except one), or no ports. More concisely, the arrangement disclosed in Lo et al. (USPN 5,850,515) denies access onto the network while the present invention prevents eavesdropping.

Lo et al. (USPN 5,940,392) describe a circuit that can be used to implement the source and destination address comparison required to implement Lo et al. (USPN 5,850,515), as well as the present invention.

While Lo et al. (USPN 5,850,515) disclose (in general) corrupting transmission of the data packet on other repeater ports, and Lo et al. (USPN 5,940,392) disclose a disrupt circuitry, neither reference discloses or suggests “selectively transmitting a prescribed data pattern as corrupted transmit data from the physical layer transmitter...”, as recited in claim 8 of the present invention, or “the physical layer transceiver outputting a prescribed data pattern as a corrupted data packet”, as recited in claim 17. This subject matter is described in the present application in connection with the output circuit 52 of Figs. 3 and 5. More specifically, the transmitting/outputting of a prescribed data pattern as corrupted transmit data/data packet is what is disclosed in the present application, not Lo et al. (USPN 5,850,515) or Lo et al. (USPN 5,940,392).

Consequently, to expedite prosecution, claim 7 is amended to include the limitation of claim 8, now cancelled, and claim 16 is amended to include the limitations of claim 17, now cancelled. In addition, claims 9 and 11 are amended to depend from amended claim 7, and claims 18 and 19 are amended to depend from amended claim 16.

As the features now recited in amended independent claims 7 and 16 are not disclosed in Lo et al. (USPN 5,850,515) and Lo et al. (USPN 5,940,392), considered alone or in combination, amended independent claims 7 and 16, as well as dependent claims 9-11, 18 and 19, are patentable over these references. Consequently, the allowance of claims 7, 9-11, 16, 18 and 19 is respectfully solicited.

**CONCLUSION**

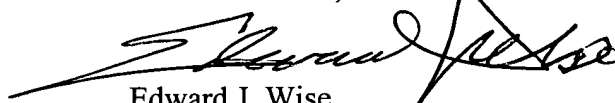
Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

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Respectfully submitted,

MCDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY



Edward J. Wise  
Registration No. 34,523

600 13<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005-3096  
(202) 756-8000 EJW:khb  
Facsimile: (202) 756-8087  
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